

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (RB-NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

February 16, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

Attendees

NAC Members:

Cheryl dos Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Matt Kozleski, Paul Lee, Peter Masundire, Robert West "Trey", Vallerie Fisher

Public Members:

Shindo Salad, Justina Guyott, Ken Gillgren, Katheryn Flake

City Staff:

Nora Liu (DPD), Pamela Banks (DON), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD)

Agenda review

- Agenda was approved as presented

December and January Summary Notes

- December 15, 2010 meeting summary notes were approved with update to the statement on absence rule (*see last bullet on page one of 12/15/2010 summary notes for update*).
- January 5, 2011 meeting summary notes were approved as presented.
- January 19, 2011 meeting summary notes were approved as presented.

Absences

- The NAC made the decision Vallerie Fisher's membership status was updated from Alternate to seated member.
- City staff will send a letter to Robyn Israel-Cox stating she has been removed from seated membership status for exceeding the absence limit. If she returns to the meetings, she will be seated as an alternate.
- An applicant was interviewed and selected as youth member for the NAC. She will be introduced at her first attendance.

Goal of meeting

- To discuss the agenda and structure for March 19th community workshop and agenda for future NAC meetings.

March Community Forum

- DPD staff is Working on a map to get a “base layer” of information — parks, bus routes, community center, shopping centers, etc. — to provide reference points to help get through the questions.
- City staff is working on a Plan B in the event participant numbers are greater than anticipated.

Introduction Session

- The Intro will let people know:
 - Why they are there,
 - What is in the current plan,
- There have been many changes in the neighborhood since the current plan was written. This is the first part of a 4-part process to:
 - get the community’s input for the plan update,
 - identify priorities,
 - identify potential solutions and
 - create action plan.
- It is important to let community know that many of the goals in the current plan were not achieved.
- NAC member would like to see visuals of where plan failed, as well as where it succeeded as this would be especially important to non-English speakers. Suggestion includes using aerial views to define where concerns still exist, and setting color codes and title PowerPoint slides to fade in and out during presentation.
- Should use more visuals, less jargon in slides. Should list steps that community used to accomplish successful projects.
- NAC members stated they would like to take an active role in the forum, including formal and informal roles, such as staffing the sign-in table, etc.

Gregory Davis and Katy Curtis volunteered to assist and present with the intro.

- Need to stress in the intro how priorities would be funded. Might highlight how a successful project from current plan came to fruition. City staff stressed that the Mayor and Council understand that all of the work is not being done to create a document, but to get projects done.
- NAC member stated it would be good to have an analysis around why certain projects were not successful.

City staff will resend the Implementation Matrix which lists all projects and city response as some had difficulty opening the spreadsheet.

General Discussion

- All subsequent community workshops or open house meetings will start with a report back on previous meeting and asking if City got it right. Summaries will also be posted on-line.
- Process is from very general to very specific: vision is formulated, which is then refined down to a goal, and then to a policy which will be included in the comprehensive plan.

- In response to NAC member's concern over how to get economic development without gentrification, City staff stated that it is important the updates are community, not city driven. Community must see the benefits and results.
- City staff asked the issue of having investments without displacing existing underserved community members be put on a future agenda for more in-depth discussion.

Resource Fair portion of the program:

- Resource Fair part of the forum will allow community members connect with existing organizations in the community.
- Gregory has provided a list of organizations in the community. Comment: Housing and faith based organizations were not on list of participants. Question: organizations should be invited, and who will be assigned to invite them.
- Mayor's Office has requested to have Jobs Initiative, Youth and Families Initiative, Walk, Bike, Ride Initiative info tables.

Decision: to get additions to organization list to Gregory by the end of the week.

- Current venue has some limitations: there might be noise issues as the fair is currently located in the upstairs section. Moving to the gym is one possibility.
- NAC members will also need to assist with logistics of resource fair participants during the forum.
- Seattle Art Museum "Design your 'Hood" participant teens would like to come to meeting. Also have volunteered a teaching artist to assist with child care/activities.

Decision: to talk more about opportunities for children participation off-line.

Open House portion of the program:

- Open House will provide chance for NAC members to mingle and get to know community members.
- Would be good to incorporate youth group entertainment into open house. Ninth grade drama class has a production "Why are you afraid of Rainier Beach?"

Walking Tour

- Walking Tour could also be done in June.

Decision: Sign-ups could be taken at the forum and then tour done at a later date.

Outreach by NAC Members

- Sign-up form was distributed for NAC members to note which groups they will do outreach to.
- The form included signing up to join POLs to do tabling outside of Safeway.

Public Comment:

- The Neighborhood Plan Update (NPU) needs to be more context, including the required elements in a comprehensive plan as required by the state

- The NPU needs to have connection to capital spending – state requirement to tie capital spending to comprehensive plan
- The NPU needs to be a system that ensures the process is accountable to the community, not to the NAC and/or the City.
- Pros and cons comments from on-line survey and status reports are very skewed. Many negative consequences of Light Rail.
- Question: what is the polling about?
Answer: It is a set of questions which provides a different and immediate way for people to give feedback.
- ALL organizations and their constituencies need to be represented at this community meeting. Should at least offer to put out materials from all organizations at table.
- Should use this event to recast who the NAC is and what public engagement looks like. A good time to look at how you engage with your constituencies. Should involve as many people as possible at all levels of engagement.
- Don't want Rainier Beach to happen like New Holly or Rainier Vista. Don't want to lose our community.
- Appreciate you bringing up what the NAC needs to take another look at.

Agenda Setting

- NAC suggested Councilmember O'Brien be invited to the March 19th community meeting and to the April NAC meeting.
- NAC members agreed on inviting CM O'Brien to meeting and Forum and suggested other possible invitees, including, etc.
- Also agreed to invite the Mayor, City Council members, Seattle Schools Board members, and King County Council members to the March event as a courtesy. They would be invited as guests, not speakers.

Nora will prepare an e-mail invitation for NAC members to approve.

School District Issues Discussion

- School District should be at the table as five School District facilities are within the Urban Village.
- NAC members stated lack of coordination between government agencies is frustrating.
- Veronica Sherman King, who has been in discussions with School District Facilities staff, might look at bringing the district in to a meeting in June after we have fleshed out all of the issues.
- NAC might frame the conversation by making suggestions of what our efforts can do to help them.

Nora suggested sending out monthly agenda topics for NAC approval.

Public Comment

- School facilities are an asset.
- The School District does not engage the community. This is a time when city staff can bring together decision makers with the School District. The District needs to know the City is serious about opening up this dialogue.
- Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition (RBCEC) will post the fliers/brochures up on its web site.

Follow-up/Next Steps

- NAC members received copies of March meeting invite and updated brochures to distribute to their groups/contacts.
- Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake NAC would like to meet with Rainier Beach NAC. City staff suggested an additional meeting be set up for the two groups to socialize

NAC members agreed they would like to film the community forum. The expenditure to produce the video would not come out of the NAC budget.